



Republican Presidential Election Voter Guide 2016

THE CANDIDATE



Donald Trump is a businessman based in New York City. Born in Queens, he is a graduate of the Wharton School of Business with a focus on real estate. Prior to entering the race for the presidency, he worked as a global real estate developer and a media personality on NBC's *The Apprentice*. He is married to Melania Knauss and has five children.

Key:

Candidate's remarks and/or actions toward the Secular Coalition's stances have been:

- A:** Generally or consistently positive.
- B:** Mixed but majority positive.
- C:** Mixed, with positive and negative responses.
- F:** Generally or consistently hostile or negative.
- N/A:** At the time of publication, the Secular Coalition for America was unable to verify the candidate's position or did not have enough information to rate the candidate.

2016 Republican Presidential Voter Guide

	Grade
1. What best describes your view of America?	F
2. Do you support a mutual separation between religion and government?	F
3. Surveys indicate that there is a great deal of prejudice against the nonreligious in America. Would you have any hesitation in appointing a well-qualified nontheist candidate to a leadership position in your administration?	N/A
4. Would your religious beliefs influence public health care policy as it relates to access for reproductive health care?	F
5. Do you support comprehensive, evidence-based, and medically accurate sex education curricula in public schools?	N/A
6. Do you believe religious organizations that receive government funds to provide social services should be required to comply with federal policies and regulations even if those policies conflict with the religious beliefs of the organization?	N/A
7. U.S. Armed Forces chaplains provide emotional and moral support without the stigma, confidentiality, and accessibility challenges of mental health services, yet no chaplains represent the 1/4 of service members who are nonreligious, nonbelievers, or humanists. Do you support humanist chaplains joining the Chaplaincy Corps?	N/A
8. How will you further climate change policy when key congressional leaders deny the overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening and that human activity is the primary cause?	F
FINAL GRADE	F

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

1. What best describes your view of America?

- Answer: When asked if he believed that America is a Judeo-Christian nation, he answered "That's the way it is."¹

2. Do you support a mutual separation between religion and government?

- Answer: "An amendment, pushed by Lyndon Johnson, many years ago, threatens religious institutions with a loss of their tax-exempt status if they openly advocate their political views. I am going to work very hard to repeal that language and protect free speech for all Americans."²

3. Surveys indicate that there is a great deal of prejudice against the nonreligious in America. Would you have any hesitation in appointing a well-qualified nontheist candidate to a leadership position in your administration?

- Answer not available.

4. Would your religious beliefs influence public health care policy as it relates to access for reproductive health care?

- Answer: "Mr. Trump gave an accurate account of the law as it is today and made clear it must stay that way now — until he is president," it read. "Then he will change the law through his judicial appointments and allow the states to protect the unborn. There is nothing new or different here."³

¹ Tashman, Brian. "Trump: America Is A Judeo-Christian Nation Because 'That's The Way It Is.'" Right Wing Watch. June 10, 2016. Accessed July 29, 2016. <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/trump-america-judeo-christian-nation-because-thats-way-it>.

² "Full Text: Donald Trump 2016 RNC Draft Speech Transcript." POLITICO. July 21, 2016. Accessed July 29, 2016. <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/full-transcript-donald-trump-nomination-acceptance-speech-at-rnc-225974>.

³ Bump, Philip. "Donald Trump Took 5 Different Positions on Abortion in 3 Days." Washington Post. April 3, 2016. Accessed July 29, 2016. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/04/03/donald-trumps-ever-shifting-positions-on-abortion/>.

5. Do you support comprehensive, evidence-based, and medically accurate sex education curricula in public schools?

- Answer not available.

6. Do you believe religious organizations that receive government funds to provide social services should be required to comply with federal policies and regulations even if those policies conflict with the religious beliefs of the organization?

- Answer not available.

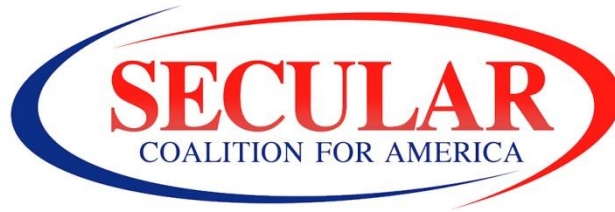
7. U.S. Armed Forces chaplains provide emotional and moral support without the stigma, confidentiality, and accessibility challenges of mental health services, yet no chaplains represent the 1/4 of service members who are nonreligious, nonbelievers, or humanists. Do you support humanist chaplains joining the Chaplaincy Corps?

- Answer not available.

8. How will you further climate change policy when key congressional leaders deny the overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening and that human activity is the primary cause?

- Answer: "So I am not a believer, and I will, unless somebody can prove something to me, I believe there's weather."⁴

⁴ Lewis, Philip. "Donald Trump On Climate Change: 'I Believe It Goes Up And It Goes Down'." Huffington Post. September 22, 2015. Accessed July 29, 2016. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-global-warming_us_5601d04fe4b08820d91aa753.



Atheists. Agnostics. Humanists.
Americans.

Methodology

Candidates were graded only on questions for which the Secular Coalition was able to identify the candidates' position—either through statements or previous actions. For each response, the candidates were given a grade of A, B, C or F. An "A" grade earned the candidate 3 points, "B" earned 2 points, "C" earned 1 point and an "F" earned 0 points. Grades of "N/A" indicate that the Secular Coalition was unable to identify the candidate's position on the given topic. The grades were averaged for a total. N/A grades were not factored into the candidate's score.

Averages were compiled on the following scale:

A = 2.25 – 3.0

B = 1.50 – 2.24

C = 0.75 – 1.49

F = 0.0 – 0.74

About the Secular Coalition for America

The mission of the Secular Coalition for America is to increase the visibility of and respect for nontheistic viewpoints in the United States, and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

The Secular Coalition for America is a 501(c)(4) advocacy representing 18 voting member organizations, more than 200 endorsing organizations, and the millions of nonreligious Americans who support a firm separation of religion and government. The Secular Coalition lobbies at the federal level in Washington, D.C. and in state legislature across the country through its state chapter program